IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A five-membered ring compound of the formula (I),

R^1-X-(A^1-M^1)$_a$-(A^2-M^2)$_b$-A^3-Y-E (I)

where the symbols and indices have the following meanings:

E is a radical T-Z-R^2 containing a five-membered ring, where:

(i) **T** is undirected and is
4-fluorothiophene-2,5-diyl, 3-fluorothiophene-2,5-diyl,
3-fluorothiophene-2,4-diyl or 5-fluorothiophene-2,4-diyl

Z is a single bond or -O-

R^2 is hydrogen or a straight-chain or branched alkyl radical (with or without asymmetric carbon atoms) having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, where one nonterminal CH_2 group may be replaced by -O- or -OC(=O)- or -C(=O)O- and/or one or more H atoms may be replaced by F, with the provisos that
a) the -CH_2- group nearest to the thiophene cannot be replaced by -O- when Z is -O-
b) R^2 can only be hydrogen when Z is a single bond,

Y is –OC (=O)- , -OCH_2-, -CH_2CH_2-

a, b are each, independently of one another, 0 or 1

(ii) **T** is furan-2,5-diyl or furan-2,4-diyl

Z is a single bond or -O-

R^2 is a straight-chain or branched alkyl radical (with or without asymmetric carbon atoms) having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, where one nonterminal CH_2

group nonadjacent to furan may be replaced by -O- or -OC(=O)- or -C(=O)O- and/or one or more H atoms may be replaced by F,

Y is -OC(=O)- , -OCH_2-, -CH_2CH_2-

a, b are each, independently of one another, 0 or 1

(iii) **T** is undirected and is isoxazole-3,5-diyl

Z is a single bond or -O-

$\mathbf{R^2}$ is hydrogen or a straight-chain or branched alkyl radical (with or without asymmetric carbon atoms) having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, where one nonterminal CH_2 group may be replaced by -O- or -OC(=O)- or -C(=O)O- and/or one or more H atoms may be replaced by F, with the provisos that

a) the -CH_2- group nearest to the isoxazole cannot be replaced by -O- when Z is -O-

b) R^2 can only be hydrogen when Z is a single bond,

a is 1

b is 0 or 1

Y is -OC(=O)- , -OCH_2-, -CH_2CH_2-

(iv) **T** is undirected and is thiazole-2,5-diyl or thiazole-2,4-diyl

Z is a single bond

$\mathbf{R^2}$ is hydrogen or a straight-chain or branched alkyl radical (with or without asymmetric carbon atoms) having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, where one nonterminal CH_2 group may be replaced by -O- or -OC(=O)- or -C(=O)O- and/or one or more H atoms may be replaced by F,

Y is -OC(=O)- , -OCH_2-, -CH_2CH_2-

a, b are each, independently of one another, 0 or 1

~~(v) T is cyclopentane-1,3-diyl~~

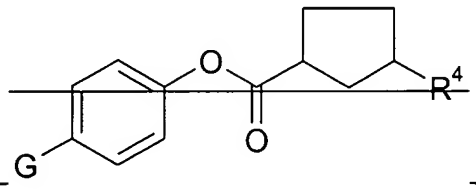
~~**Z** is a single bond or -O-~~

~~**R^2** is hydrogen or a straight-chain or branched alkyl radical (with or without asymmetric carbon atoms) having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, where one nonterminal CH_2 group may be replaced by -O- or -OC(=O)- or -C(=O)O- and/or one or more H atoms may be replaced by F, with the provisos that~~

~~a) the $-CH_2-$ group nearest to the cyclopentane cannot be replaced by -O- when Z is -O-~~

~~b) R^2 can only be hydrogen when Z is a single bond,~~

~~with the exception of compounds of the formula (II)~~



~~(II)~~

~~in which~~

~~**R^4** is as defined for **R^2**~~

~~**G** is trans-4-propyl-cyclohexyl or trans-4-butyl-cyclohexyl or an alkyl group of 1 to 15 carbon atoms, in which, in addition, one or more nonadjacent CH_2 groups may be replaced by -O-, -CO-, -OCO-, -O-CO-O-, -CHhalogen-, -CHCN- and/or -CH=CH- or is F, CN,~~

(vi) **T** is cyclopentane-1,3-diyl, in which one $-CH_2CH_2-$ or $-CH_2CH-$ group is replaced by a -CH=CH- or. CH=C- group respectively

Z is a single bond

R^2 is hydrogen or a straight-chain or branched alkyl radical (with or without asymmetric carbon atoms) having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, where one nonterminal CH_2 group may be replaced by -O- or -OC(=O)- or -C(=O)O- and/or one or more H atoms may be replaced by F, with the proviso that the $-CH_2-$ group nearest to the cyclopentene cannot be replaced and where

Y cannot be $-CH_2-CH_2-$,

a is 1

b is 0 or 1

Y is -OC(=O)- , -OCH_2-

R^1 is hydrogen or a straight-chain or branched C_{1-20}-alkyl or C_{2-20}-alkenyl radical (with or without asymmetric carbon atoms), where

a) one or two nonterminal CH_2 groups may be replaced, independently of one another, by -O- or -C(=O)-, with the proviso that two adjacent CH_2 groups cannot be replaced in the same way, and/or

b) one CH_2 group may be replaced by -C≡C-, and/or

c) one CH_2 group may be replaced by -$Si(CH_3)_2$-, cyclopropane-1,2-diyl, cyclobutane-1,3-diyl, cyclopentane-1,4-diyl, bicyclo[1.1.1]pentane-1,3-diyl or cyclohexane-1,4-diyl, and/or

d) one or more H atoms may be replaced by F and/or CN,

e) in the case of a branched alkyl radical containing asymmetric carbon atoms, the asymmetric carbon atoms have -CH_3, -OCH_3, -CF_3, F, CN and/or Cl as substituents or are incorporated into a 3- to 7-membered ring, in which, in addition, one or two non-adjacent CH_2 groups may be replaced by -O- and one CH_2 group non-adjacent to these groups may be replaced by -OC(=O)-;

X is a single bond, -O-, OC(=O)-, -C(=O)O- or -OC(=O)O-

~~**Y** is -OC(=O)- , -OCH_2-, -CH_2CH_2-~~

A^1, **A^2**, **A^3** are each, independently of one another, phenylene-1,4-diyl, unsubstituted or monosubstituted or disubstituted by CN or F, phenylene-1,3-diyl, unsubstituted or monosubstituted or disubstituted by CN or F, cyclohexane-1,4-diyl, in which one or two H atoms may be replaced by CN and/or CH_3 and/or F, 1-cyclohexene-1,4-diyl, in which one H atom may be replaced by F, 1-alkyl-1-silacyclohexane-1,4-diyl, pyridine-2,5-diyl, unsubstituted or monosubstituted by F, pyrimidine-2,5-

diyl, unsubstituted or monosubstituted by F, cyclopentane-2,5-diyl or thiophene-2,5-diyl;

M^1, M^2 are undirected and are each, independently of one another, -OC(=O)-, $-OCH_2-$, $-CH_2CH_2-$, $-OC(=O)CH_2CH_2-$, $-OCH_2CH_2CH_2-$, -C≡C-, $-CH_2CH_2CH_2CH_2-$ or a single bond;

~~a, b are each, independently of one another, 0 or 1.~~

2. (Original) A liquid-crystal mixture comprising at least one compound of the formula (I) as claimed in claim 1.

3. (Original) A liquid-crystal mixture as claimed in claim 2, which comprises from 0.01 to 80% by weight of one or more compounds of the formula (I).

4. (Previously presented) A liquid-crystal mixture as claimed in claim 2, which is ferroelectric (chiral smectic).

5. (Previously presented) A liquid-crystal mixture as claimed in claim 2, which is nematic.

6. (Original) A ferroelectric switching and/or display device, which contains a ferroelectric liquid-crystal mixture as claimed in claim 4.

7. (Original) A ferroelectric switching and/or display device as claimed in claim 6, which contains active matrix elements and wherein the liquid-crystal layer forms a monostable monodomain.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)